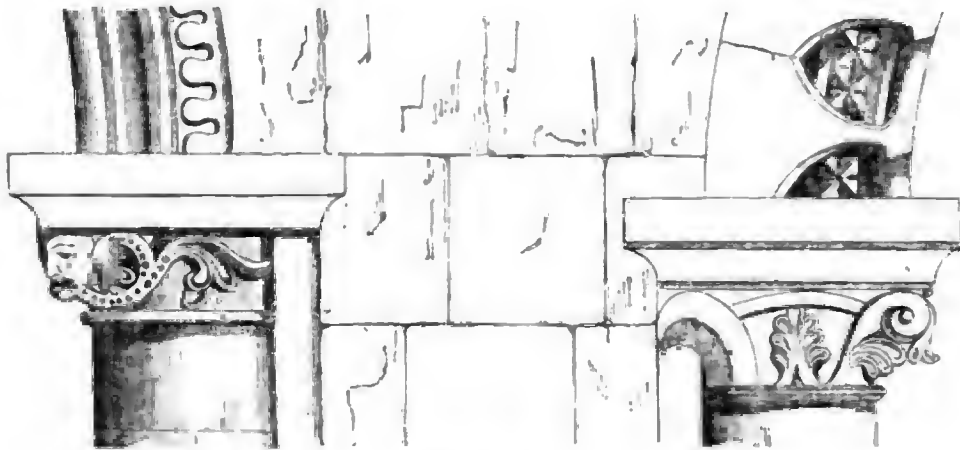


NORMAN CAPITALS,—ST. NICHOLAS', ISLE OF THANET.



Figs. 2 and 3.

tleman who acted as chairman at that period, and would have been able to give the most important information on the subject, was unfortunately dead, but luckily there was still amongst them Mr. Donaldson, who had been their chairman for ten years, and there could be no doubt that from his position as such, he was more acquainted with the operations of this court than any other individual. It was obvious that any inquiry involving the regular practice of the court would be deficient without the aid of the chairman who presided at the time specified; he (the chairman) thought therefore, that Mr. Donaldson ought to be upon the committee. It had been suggested that the present chairman, and Mr. Harrison, the chairman of the committee of accounts, should also be on the committee for the same reasons, though in a less degree. They had assembled together for the purpose of appointing the committee, and their object was to have gentlemen impartial and without prejudices; he would therefore further propose Mr. Alderman Johnson, Mr. Robert Gunter, and Mr. Hawkes, for he thought that those names were not at all open to any imputation or fear that they would not form their judgment with fairness, and he (the chairman) would feel very much pleased to co-operate with those gentlemen. His endeavour was to appoint such a committee as would carry out their duty with fidelity.

Mr. Gunter declined to act, his health not being sufficiently good to permit him to give the attention and application necessary for such an inquiry. All who are interested in the subject, and know Mr. Gunter's clear head and rigorous integrity, will regret that he was not induced to act.

Mr. John Gunter was then named, but was obliged to decline, as he was going out of town. Mr. Hawkes also wished to withdraw, on the ground that he was not in office at the time alluded to in the pamphlet. Mr. John White was requested to join the committee, but he thought he ought not to do so, as he had often expressed himself strongly against the proceedings of the court; afterwards, however, Mr. White consented to act.

The following gentlemen constitute the committee as ultimately formed:—Mr. Willoughby, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Alderman Johnson, Mr. Hawkes, Mr. John White, and Mr. Frederick Crace; three to be a quorum.

On a notice being read of a motion to sanction an order of the court for building 450 feet of main sewer in Gloucester-road, Paddington, estimated at 1,237*l*. Mr. Leslie objected strongly to certain proceedings by which an amendment on this motion moved by him at the last meeting had been set aside. He also accused the court of levying a rate upon the public in order to make a balance in the hands of the banker and whilst, he said, there were 20,000*l*. in the bank, not a single public

work was in hand. He objected to the abiding by the contract made for the building of the sewer, urging the inefficient manner in which the former part of the work had been completed as the reason why the engagement should be broken off. He then submitted an amendment to the effect, that the proposed work be not done until a carefully prepared plan, section, specification and estimate, including every expense, be made; and then that the works be thrown open to public competition by advertisement in *THE BUILDER* and other papers. This was seconded by Mr. White, but was ultimately lost by a majority of sixteen to six. Mr. Gunter, Mr. John Gunter, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Boodle, junior, voted for the amendment. The following gentlemen voted against it: Messrs. Allason, Branscombe, Cantwell, T. L. Donaldson, Wm. Donaldson, Walpole Eyre, J. France, Gutch, Hawkes, Harrison, Kendall, Lewis, Nutting, G. O. Smith, and the chairman.

SIMPLE SELF-ACTING WATER-CLOSET.

THE poisonous effect of the effluvia arising from decomposing matter has been adverted to

on several occasions in our pages. One regulation should be instantly enforced; every open cesspool at present vomiting forth its pestilential gases should be arched over,—no privies should be permitted,—and one fruitful source of disease would be stopped. We are indebted to Mr. Henry Austin, the excellent honorary secretary of the Metropolitan Improvement Society, and of the Health of Towns Association, for the introduction of the cheap and efficient self-acting water-closet for poor tenements, represented by the accompanying engraving. The weight of the person sitting upon the seat A, forces upwards the rod B, and so causes the valve C, at the other end of the lever D, to close the lower aperture of the service-box, and to open the upper one, allowing it to fill with water. The pipe E is much larger than what is generally used, and the distributor F is so constructed as to preserve the whole force and velocity of the water. This arrangement has the advantage of being inexpensive, and not easily put out of order. A metal cylinder, 9 or 10 inches in diameter (in the place of a basin), trapped at the bottom in an ordinary manner, is all that is necessary to make a complete water-closet, requiring no care, and prepared for rough usage.

SIMPLE SELF-ACTING WATER-CLOSET.

